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MINIMA OF *ALGOL*. R. A.  $3^h 1^m 40^s$ , DECL.  $+ 40^\circ 34'.2$ ,  
MAGNITUDES 2.3 TO 3.5.

The following times of minima of the variable star *Algol* have been taken from the *Vierteljahrschrift der Astronomischen Gesellschaft*, and are printed here at the request of one of the observers of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Times of the minima occurring in daylight have been omitted.

The position for 1900.0 and the magnitudes of maximum and minimum given above have been taken from Dr. CHANDLER'S Third Catalogue of Variable Stars.

Pacific Standard Time.

1896, Oct. 10, $3^h 50^m$ A.M.	1896, Nov. 2, $2^h 21^m$ A.M.
13, 0 39 A.M.	4, 11 10 P.M.
15, 9 28 P.M.	7, 7 59 P.M.
18, 6 17 P.M.	19, 7 14 A.M.
30, 5 32 A.M.	22, 4 3 A.M.
	25, 0 52 A.M.
	27, 9 41 P.M.
	30, 6 30 P.M.
1896, Dec. 12, $5^h 45^m$ A.M.	
15, 2 34 A.M.	
17, 11 23 P.M.	
20, 8 12 P.M.	
23, 5 1 P.M.	

R. G. AITKEN.

HUBERT A. NEWTON; GEORGE BROWN GOODE; WILLIAM C. WINLOCK;—DIED 1896.

American Science has to lament the loss of three of its representatives. Professor NEWTON, of Yale University, the Dean of American astronomers and mathematicians, for long years an accepted Master, died at New Haven, in August last. Dr. GEORGE BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, a leader in his special branch of science, a most willing and efficient helper to the many and varied scientific undertakings which came under his official care, "one of the ablest and best men in America," died in Washington, September 6th, at the early age of forty-five years. WILLIAM C. WINLOCK, a son of a former Director of Harvard College Observatory, Superintendent of Exchanges in the Smithsonian Institution, to whom

every scientific establishment in the wide world owes a debt of gratitude for his care of its interests, died on September 20th, before his time, at the age of thirty-seven years.

Complete memorial notices of all three, to be printed elsewhere, will exhibit their scientific work and service. The present brief note is simply to record the loss to American Science, and to offer here a tribute of sincere affection and respect, based on personal friendships and intimacies extending over a period of more than twenty years, unbroken by a single cloud. No doubt the places of those who are gone can be filled from the crowded ranks of able men who have come from our Universities during the generation just past; but their personalities and their work will not be forgotten. The duties that fell to their lot were performed over long years, under every variety of circumstance, with unvarying ability, fidelity and kindness. In their several ways and degrees, they have left indelible marks on the history of Science in America. Their successors may well take inspiration from their example.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

Mt. HAMILTON, September 30, 1896.

#### ERRORS OF GRADUATION OF THE REPSOLD MERIDIAN CIRCLE OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.\*

The following set of graduation errors has been determined by means of simultaneous readings of both circles. The instrument is especially adapted to this method, one circle being quickly and conveniently set to any desired reading, with respect to the other.

The agreement of the various measures has been satisfactory; and they afford the means of computing the probable errors of the final values. This has been done, also, by comparison of the results of individual series; and the probable errors are in accord with the quantities to be expected, from the combination of the accidental errors of observation, with the probable errors of the measurements of the graduations, used as a standard. For the final corrections, the probable error increases from  $\pm 0.''011$  for the divisions best determined, to  $\pm 0.''035$  for the corrections to the intermediate  $1^\circ$  arcs.

Each determination rests upon series observed in opposite quadrants, for the elimination of circle flexure. This has, how-

\* Abridged from the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3374. See also these *Publications*, Volume VII, page 330.